



Welcome to this sixty ninth edition of **“The Referee”**, the newsletter for all NSW State League Football Referees. This newsletter will enable our branch to communicate directly with our members and will cover issues and areas of interest to all referees.

We wish to ensure that all information, educational resources and opportunities that our branch provides for referees finds its way to those who are likely to benefit most – and that’s you!



LEGEA

There is no rush when approaching a player, you wish to deal with. Usually you will call a player to you, but don't stand still, meet the player halfway – having directed them to space where other players are not hanging around. If the player is wound up or giving you their opinion, just be patient and use a calming signal, such as both hands held out with palms facing down and in a low voice ask the player to calm down and let you have your say. Whilst speaking to the player they should respect you, so make sure they face you and stand up (i.e. not bending down to pull their socks up), as not doing so is a sign of disrespect and a challenge to your authority.

Fourth Official's Responsibilities

1. Responsibilities Prior to Start of a Match

A. Working as a Team

- Arrive together or coordinate with referee the preferred arrival time so that the entire team are present at the same time (45 minutes prior to Kick-off).
- Determine from the referee the game uniform (Black, Yellow, Blue or Red).
- Be fully prepared (equipment and uniform) to serve as either the referee or as an assistant referee, in accordance with competition rules.
- Participate fully and in any pre-game meeting regarding responsibilities, procedures, and any match-specific issues.

B. Pre-Game Inspections – Field, Ball, and Teams

- Participate with referee and AR's when inspecting the field, with particular attention to the benches and technical areas.
- Check match balls and ensure they comply with the requirements of Law 2 (know your referee and their preferred pressure e.g. 0.6 – 1.1).
- Following inspection of the game balls, provide them to the referee for selection of the primary (starting) game ball and issue others to the AR's. Check the substitution board equipment (if available) and ensure its reliability.
- Check or obtain team sheet including signatures.

C. Interaction with Club Officials

- Effective communication is the key.
- Introduce yourself to coaches or team managers.
- Discuss with the coaches matters such as substitution procedures, warm-up areas, and injury procedures.
- Resolve any issues or ambiguities regarding competition rules as requested by the referee (e.g. penalties, etc).

D. Immediately Prior to the Start of Play

- Walk onto the field with the referee, assistant referees, and teams.
- Perform final check of technical area and fourth official's areas for proper equipment, and the presence of authorised persons (wearing FNSW accreditation) and correct number on the bench - Substitutions (5) and Officials (4). Check that the substitutes are wearing appropriate bibs.
- Respond to eye contact by the referee that all matters under the fourth official's control are in readiness for the start of play.

2. Responsibilities During Play

A. General

- Remain at the fourth official's table or designated area unless performing a specific duty elsewhere e.g. injured player.
- Remain standing throughout the match but try not to be too noticeable. Rotate from time to time between each technical area and provide a presence.
- Maintain proper records for substitutions, goals, cards and any incidents outside the vision of the referee and assistant referees.
- Notify the referee as quickly as possible if a player or substitute has -
 - been cautioned or sent off based on an incorrect identification

- not been sent off despite having received a second caution
- committed violent conduct out of the view of the referee and assistant referees
- Be aware of the position and movement of substitutes, coaches, and other team personnel.

B. Substitutions

- Confirm substitute listed on the team-sheet.
- Check that his or her equipment conforms to Law 4.
- Stand at halfway line with substitute slightly behind and on bench side of you.
- If both teams are requesting a substitution, keep the substitutes on their respective bench sides.
- Perform substitution procedures for each team separately.
- If a numbers kit or electronic board is being used, display the number of the player being substituted and number of the substitute entering the field.
- Make sure the substitute does not enter the field until the exiting player has completely left the field.
- Record the time of the substitution.

C. Controlling the Technical Area

- Take particular note of any persons not recognised as authorised to be in these areas and ask the unauthorised people to leave and go behind the fence. If they will not leave call the referee over to deal with them alternatively if there is a match commissioner present and nearby bring their presence to his attention for removal.
- Keep both benches and technical areas under observation.
- Make a mental note of instances where a coach or other team official moves off the bench to give technical instructions but does not return after giving instructions.
- Choose the appropriate time to respond.
- Use your presence to get a coach or team official to sit down.
- Sometimes a quiet word may assist in diffusing a tense situation, if this does not work then be more assertive.
- Be prepared to bring to the attention of the coach any instances of improper behaviour by team officials or substitutes on the bench.
- Monitor and prevent the practice of throwing water bottles of any kind onto the field or to players on the field.
- Monitor substitutes who are warming up (especially near Assistant Referee 1) and prevent them from interfering with official activities.
- Make sure that subs are easily distinguished from players by wearing appropriate bibs.

D. Equipment Problems, Bleeding, or Blood on the Uniform

- Be aware of the referee instructing a player to leave the field due to illegal equipment, bleeding, or blood on the uniform and distinguish this from either a send-off or a substitution
- Do not permit a player to return to the field until the referee's instructions have been complied with.
- Monitor efforts to stop any bleeding, replace a blood-soaked uniform, or correct illegal equipment.
- If, in the pregame conference, the referee has authorised the fourth official to inspect and confirm the correction of any bleeding or equipment problems, ensure that the matter has been fully resolved in accordance with the referee's instructions.

E. Goals, Injuries, and Critical Situations

- Record the time and immediate circumstances of all goals.
- Check both benches to ensure that non-players are not entering the field.
- If celebrating players approach their bench area, encourage them to take their position for the kick-off without excessive delay.
- Record the time of any injury for which play is stopped.

- Prevent team officials and bench personnel from entering the field in response to an injury and, when permitted by the referee, allow only appropriate personnel to attend to the player.
- Where an injured player off the field is prepared to return to play, stand at the midfield line to communicate to the referee that the player is now ready to return to the game.
- Monitor team officials and substitutes on the bench in critical situations where there might be an attempt to enter the field, prevent such entry if possible, and identify for subsequent referee action any persons who do enter the field despite your efforts.
- If a player is sent off (shown a red card), ensure that the player exits the field entirely (utilise ground officials, match commissioner, or security staff to assist if necessary).

F. Half-time Break

- As the period closes, gather equipment and join the referee and assistant referees so that all officials can exit the field as a group.
- Secure replacement ball unless this has already been done by the referee or an assistant referee.
- Participate in comparing and, where necessary, correcting records of significant events.
- Participate in the general discussion among the team of officials regarding the conduct of the match, patterns observed, player behaviour to be observed more closely, etc.
- Before the start of the second half, check with teams to determine if substitutions are to be made and ensure that the proper procedure is followed.
- In the event of time to be added on after the normal time of play obtain the signal from the referee for the amount of additional time to be added on for substitutions, injuries and stoppages. Display this time on the numbers kit or electronic substitution board if being used so everyone can see.

G. Additional Periods of Play and/or Kicks from the Penalty Mark.

- Be prepared to remind persons in the technical areas of the requirements for these situations and their responsibilities.
- If the rules of competition call for additional periods of play following a tied score, assist the referee in maintaining an orderly transition from the end of the last regular period of play to the first part of extra time.
- If the match will continue with kicks from the penalty mark to decide a draw ensure that only the players on the field of play at the end of the game remain on there and that substitutes or coaches do not enter the field for this phase of play.
- Note the order of players kicking from the penalty mark and the results of their kicks as backup to the record being kept on the field.

3. Responsibilities After the Match

A. Equipment and Paperwork

- Make sure all equipment and other items you brought to the field are gathered up and taken with you.
- Retrieve the ball if close to you when the match ends and carry it with you until it can be given to the referee.
- Move to join the referee and assistant referees without undue delay (avoid in particular being engaged in conversation by anyone wanting to discuss events during the match).

B. Match Debrief

- Provide information from your records as requested by the referee to confirm or correct information recorded on the field.
- Bring to the referee's attention any events which were not observed by the officials on the field but which should be included in the match report.

- Participate fully as a member of the officiating team in discussions conducted by the referee and/or assessor to review and assess match events, critical situations, issues of control, team and player behaviour, etc.

C. Fourth Official's Report

- If a separate report by the fourth official is needed (in the case of events mentioned in the referee's game report which are included based solely on your information), ensure that the details are fully discussed with the referee.
- Provide the referee with a copy of any report you submit.

4. General Considerations and Special Situations

The fourth official is the primary point of contact with the officiating team for all persons other than the players, substitutes, and team officials (e.g. the media, security, stadium representatives, ball retrievers, etc.).

The fourth official performs his/her duties under and with the authority of the referee.

The actual authority of the referee should be used as seldom as possible and only as a last resort but, when it is needed, do not hesitate to inform the referee.

Maintain composure and a professional appearance at all times, avoid being drawn into any conversations which do not relate directly to the conduct of your responsibilities.

Small actions taken decisively and early often prevent situations from deteriorating into greater tension, conflict, and confusion.

If you intend to speak to a coach, substitute, or team official in the technical area, keep the conversation brief and professional.

If action must be taken with respect to anyone in the technical area (including a player temporarily off the field for some purpose), attempt to involve the coach by requesting assistance or bringing the matter first to his attention.

This article has been modified from original material produced by Jim Ouliaris for accreditation for the Level 2 Referee Instructor Training Program.



Active Member of the Month

Congratulations go to Ayad Naji who is the Active Member of the Month for April 2019 and Emma Kocbek who is the Active Member of the Month for May 2019. Ayad and Emma got the highest points for their all-round performance during April and May respectively for their dedication to training, attending the general meeting and doing well in the monthly LOTG Quiz. Both were awarded a \$50.00 Caltex Voucher for his efforts at the June General Meeting. Well done Ayad and Emma.



2018-2019 Laws of the Game Quiz

A thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game is an essential quality of a good referee. All referees should regularly review their Laws of the Game book to ensure they are correctly interpreting and applying them.

This monthly LOTG Quiz is highly recommended for all active referees and assessors and counts towards meeting part of the criteria for honour games consideration and annual awards. To reinforce your knowledge you are encouraged to utilise your Laws of the Game Book to assist in answering the quiz questions. All quiz questions are based on the current 2018/2019 IFAB LOTG.

[Click Here](#)

Click on the "Click Here" button to complete the highly recommended monthly LOTG Quiz to test yourself on how well you know the laws.

June LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - C; 2 - A; 3 - D; 4 - C; 5 - D; 6 - B; 7 - D; 8 - D; 9 - C; 10 - D.

Important Dates

Friday 5th July 2019 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 2nd August 2019 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 6th September 2019 - General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Richard Baker - NSWFLR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

